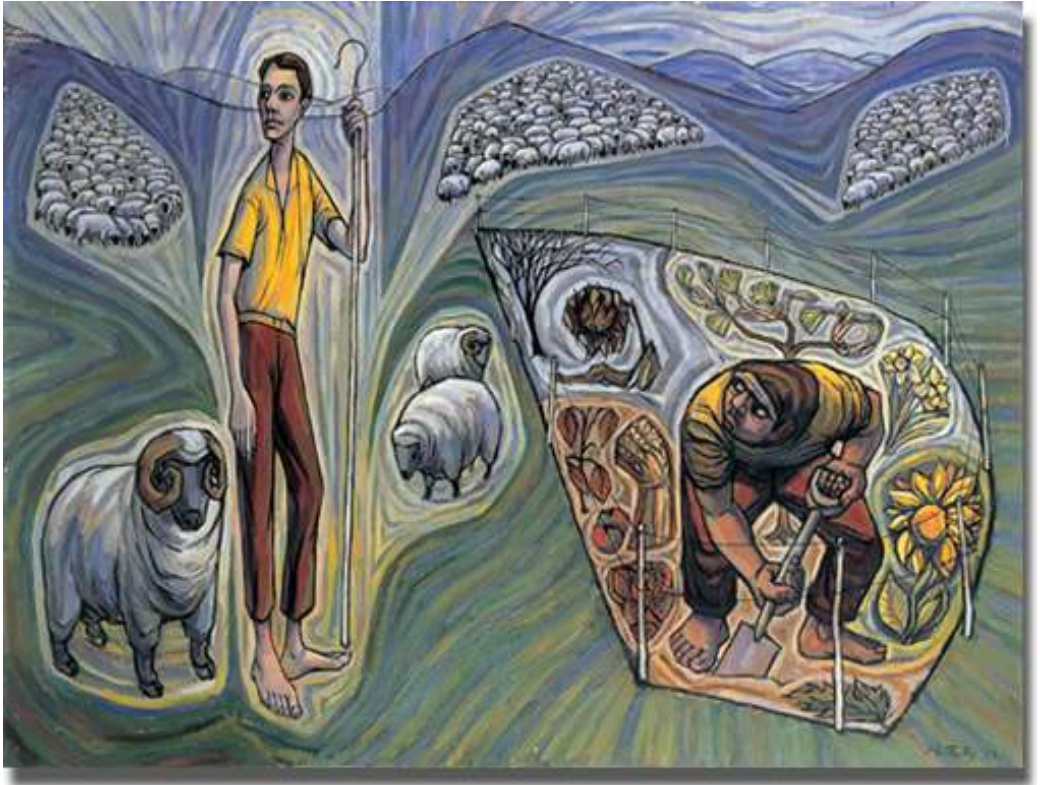


the grapevine

FEBRUARY 2011

Keeping you in touch with Loughton Methodist Church.
A member of Churches Together in Loughton



John Reilly (1928-) Cain and Abel from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art. Copyright: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, used by permission of Trustees of the Collection

The Bible passage relating to this picture can be found in Genesis chapter 4 and a commentary on this picture by Francis Hoyland can be found on page 2 of this edition

bibelfresh
It could change your world

Cain and Abel ~ John Reilly (1928-)

Oil 1958

Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art, No.22

Commentary by Francis Hoyland

Cain glowers at Abel from his patch - the patch is fenced in order to prevent Abel's sheep from eating the crops but also to symbolise the self restricting action of jealousy.

The four seasons, so important to a farmer are symbolised within this patch by daffodils for spring, a sunflower for summer, the rejected sheaf of corn and red leaves for autumn and a pile of dead twigs and a bare tree for winter.

The contour of the patch is related rhythmically to the hallowed areas inhabited by Abel and his flocks. The patterning is very strong and, by a paradox, it sweeps us into the distance while making flat shapes on the surface of the canvas.

Blue marks on the green grass and practically everywhere else, evoke atmosphere and space while reiterating and underlining the strong movement that flows through the piece.

Abel is, of course, a type of Christ and he is shown as being a good shepherd - that marvellous image taken up by Our Lord from the teaching of Ezekiel. A stalwart ram stands beside him as if to defend him from his brother's wrath

The pictorial language is basically linear for a free-flowing line gives rise to shapes which are filled with glowing colour. The colour has a home key of blue from which it modulates, via dull reds, towards the fanfare of yellow.

The picture is divided into definite zones and then subdivided, especially in the case of Cain's patch where each seasonal area is haloed by coloured lines.

It is interesting to note that Cain is digging in autumn when the sheaf would have been harvested. Soon however, he will leave and become a 'fugitive and a wanderer over the earth.'

Loughton Methodist Church

High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB

Minister: Rev Tony Morling: Tel: 020 8508 1834
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Church Co-ordinator: Mr Martin Lawford, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
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Office Manager: Mrs Barbara Hills, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
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Sunday Services 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
Junior Church 10.30 am *Superintendent* Mr Michael Hall
Toddler Church, 10.00 am Tuesdays (in term time)

LOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH is one of the 12 Methodist Churches that form the London (Forest) Circuit.

We are one of 6,000 Methodist Churches in Britain committed to increasing the awareness of Christ's presence in society and working for the good of all.

We believe in a God of diversity and creativity and seek to reflect that in our worship and membership which ranges in age, background and opinion.

Our premises are designed to serve not only the congregation but the wider needs of Loughton.

- ❖ We welcome people at all stages of faith, whoever they are and however life has treated them. Those who worship come with a mixture of joy and pain, struggles and achievements in their lives. We aim to be a community which is honest with God and with themselves and which gets support from others as they face the demands of everyday life.
- ❖ Many find in Church a place where our deepest questions about life can be explored and hope is revealed in Christ's life and teaching. But it is also a place where people get involved in practical concern for others as we look for ways to show Christ's love in action.

Across the world Methodists have joined with others to make a real difference to major social evils like human rights abuses, pollution of the earth and Third World Debt.

There are about one million people in Britain who have an active connection with the Methodist Church. There are 70 million such people across the world. To find out more about the national church contact: -

www.methodist.org.uk and for LMC www.loughtonmethodist.org.uk.

Articles for publication in the Grapevine can be left in the Church Office or sent to the editor, Keith Watts, 238 Buckhurst Way, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. IG9 6JG.
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The views expressed in articles in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, minister and officers or the church generally.

CHURCH SERVICES AT LOUGHTON

February

6th	9.00 am	Mr Michael Hall ~ Prayer Service
	10.30 am	Mr David Bowers
13th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Laura Pease ~ Family Service
20th	9.00 am	Mrs Christine Watts & Worship Leaders
	10.30 am	Mr Peter Dawe
27th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Baptisms
	6.30 pm	'Out of the Box' Taize style Service

The Nationwide Christian Trust at Mulberry House, Ongar is offering Four Biblefresh seminars this year

Dates and topics are as follows: -

- ❖ Tuesday March 15th - The Word in One
- ❖ Tuesday June 21st - Understanding the Bible
- ❖ Tuesday September 20th – Models of Engaging with the Bible
- ❖ Tuesday November 29th – Connecting Beliefs and Behaviour:
Study of Ephesians

They are led by Rev Andy Twilley (who is very involved in the rebirth of Wesley Owen as Living Oasis).

Each costs £19. 50 or you can book all four for £70.

They include a Mulberry House lunch and run from 10 00am – 3.30pm

**For more details speak to Peter Moles or check out their website:
www.nationwidechristiantrust.com.**

Letter from the Manse



Easter is very late this year and there are still three months to go. In that time there is much planned and much to do, and in this letter I want to highlight some of the principle activities for February.

First of all I am delighted that the building plans to host the Christian Drama Resource Centre at LMC have gained unanimous support at the January Church Council. Once Methodist procedures have been passed, the next stage will be to gain planning permission, secure tenders and appoint a builder. This will take several months and as we journey through this process updates will be regularly posted in the Grapevine so that the congregation is kept up to speed. If you have any queries, or would like to offer your services to help with publicity and fundraising please do speak to either Jill Angold-Stephens or me.

Two very different specials occur over the weekend of Feb 12-13th. On the Saturday night to support Pals for Dalits there is: *'From India with Love'* - an evening of fun, good food, music and entertainment. I warmly recommend it to you and your friends. Further details are published in this magazine. Then at 3.00pm on the Sunday afternoon Loughton's Town Mayor invites us to attend the annual Civic Service. The choir from Whitebridge School will be participating and we are delighted to be hosting this event. All are welcome.

The 10.30am service on Sunday 27th will be a joyous occasion as we welcome through baptism two children into the life of the church: Elizabeth Grace Aderemi Ajose-Coker daughter to Deji and Claire, & Holly Louisa Mulgrew, daughter to Nicola and Steve and granddaughter to Malcolm and Moreen Bell. Then by way of contrast the evening service will be in the relaxed Taize style of simple chants, candles and silence.

So you can see that in addition to the usual activities there is much going on. In the midst of the busyness of life, its joys and challenges, its unexpected turns and its usual routines, let us keep our eyes focused on Christ. Let us ensure that He is the centre of all that we do and that our various activities proclaim Him and make His saving grace known. Let us not be so busy that we don't have time to stop and stare, to read the scriptures and sense our lives upheld by His grace.

All best wishes

Tony

Bible Fresh with a difference: Saturday March 5th

Did you know that just 36 minutes down the Central Line you can come face to face with the Egyptian Pharaoh that is mentioned in the book of Exodus, gigantic guardian statues to ancient palaces, hold authentic Roman coins and see the world's oldest image of Christ in mosaic? And more to the point, the British Museum is free of charge!

As part of *Bible Fresh* on Saturday March 5th Tony is offering 90 minute guided tours of the most amazing and awe inspiring artifacts. Numbers are limited to twelve for each tour. First tour leaves at 1.00pm. Speak to Tony for details and to book a place.

Saturday 26th February
Meet 11.30 @ the Manse

To mark a birthday of distinction for Tony
Come for a ramble in search of Loughton's lost pond,
bring picnic provisions to provide strength for the return journey
to then pop into the Manse for liquid refreshment of your choice.
Or just drop in to the Manse, informal, Open-House style from 2-6pm

The Morlings
12 Brook Road, Loughton
(just your presence, not presents!)



Loughton Ministers old and new.
Leslie Griffiths with Tony Morling at the Christmas Bazaar where Leslie was signing copies of his autobiography 'A View from the Edge'.
Any suggestions as to what message Leslie was writing for Tony?
Suggestions to the editor.

Dates for the Diary

February

2nd	8.00 pm	Outreach Committee
9th	8.30 pm	Consultation on Worship PLEASE NOTE REVISED START TIME
13th	3.00 pm	Civic Service (Loughton Town Council)
27th	10.30 am	Baptisms

March

2nd	8.00 pm	Church Council
4th		Women's World Day of Prayer see page 9
5th		Biblefresh with a difference see page 6
10th	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting
17th	7.30 pm	Licensed to Chill, with Liz Babbs at Café Rouge see page 16
19th	7.30 pm	Music@LMC Youth Music Festival see page 14
20th	10.30 am	Annual Church Meeting

Change to Consultation on Worship meeting on 9th Feb. The Stewards, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders will be meeting at 7.30 pm and the Consultation on Worship will start at 8.30 pm. Thank you.

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

13/02/2011 - Bowling - A letter will be out soon to confirm the cost, times, location etc.

06/03/2011 - 7.30 - 9.00 pm. - At the manse.

10/04/2011 - 7.30 - 9.00 pm. - At LMC

08/05/2011 - 7.30 - 9.00 pm. - Loughton Baptist Church Youth Room.

Double YY's ~ Forthcoming Programme

for further information contact Barbara Martin 8508 7476

8th February 7.30pm Games Evening in Wesley Hall

8th March 7.30pm Pancake Evening & Quiz in Wesley Hall

30th April Senior Citizens Tea in Church Hall (time tbc)

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe boxes.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped this year by covering, filling, checking, sealing and transporting our shoe boxes at LMC. We returned over 2000 completed boxes which will be given to children in Liberia, Romania and Zimbabwe. We are especially grateful to our knitters, who work throughout the year, and to all who donated 'fillers' and completed boxes. A magnificent effort! Thank you.

Margaret Hart

Arts & Drama Centre – progress!!

After nearly three years of there being very little to show for all our efforts we now have some tangible progress. I hope that you have enjoyed seeing the plans and designs for the new centre. If you would like one of the team to talk through the designs that are on display in the Welcome Area or anything else about the project please speak to me or another member of the team on Sundays and we will be very happy to answer your questions. The team are Keith Aldred, Tom Donoghue, Liz Guest, John Hart, Colin Haslam, Martin Howarth (our Treasurer), Martin Lawford, Andrea Moles, Tony Morling, Keith Watts with me as Chairman.

We are so excited because, as a result of all the positive feedback, at the Church Council meeting on 12th January a unanimous decision was made to build according to these designs and to start by applying to Epping Forest District Council for planning permission by the end of this month (January). We need to allow about 8 weeks for this to happen assuming everything is straightforward. We have also completed our application to the Methodist District for permission from them to build. As and when I have news it will be passed on to you, our church family. If all goes according to plan we hope to start building in September this year.

Amidst all the excitement now is the time for everyone to get actively involved. Although we have a considerable amount of the funding required we do not have it all so we need to work together to raise the remainder of the funds. One simple way that you can help is to look at the “Easyfundraising” article on page 16 where this is explained. You might not be able to do use this yourself but I am sure that you will know someone who can and will. Some of us are already doing this and some equipment for the refurbished church hall kitchen was bought in this way. We also have a number of other ideas and we hope that you will give these your support. We are planning to set up a fundraising group to oversee this and apply to grant making bodies in the hope that we will be able to gain some external funding too. If you are able to offer active help with this please talk to me or one of the team.

In order for this wonderful vision to become a reality we need everyone to help both with actual fund raising and in praying for the work of those who we hope will be most actively involved and your prayers would be greatly appreciated. Do not forget to thank God for the progress that we have now made, though.

Jill Angold-Stephens

**Women's World Day of Prayer
Friday 4th March**

**Loughton Methodist Church are hosting the Service this year
The service has been compiled by the women of Chile.**

It has the theme 'How many loaves have you?'

**A warm invitation is given to join this service ~
men, women and children**

**A lunch is being served at 12 noon
and will be followed by the Service at 1.15 pm.**



Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, which begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.

The symbol of the Women's World Day of Prayer was designed in 1982 for the service prepared by women of Ireland, both north and south, and was then adopted as the International Logo.

The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Saturday 19 February

10.00am - 3.30 pm

Trinity Church, Mannock Drive

Meeting Julian of Norwich - a Woman for Today

A Quiet Day

Led by Sister Elizabeth Ruth Obbard

Sister Elizabeth lives as a solitary at the Carmelite Friary at Aylesford, Kent

The day costs £10.00

Further details can be obtained from Rev Richard Fisher on 8281 1389

GETTING TO KNOW YOU ~ No. 24

Jill Angold Stephens



I was born in Lancaster as the train my mother was travelling in was bombed at Crewe; but I lived in Clapton until the age of seven when we (mother, father and my little mischievous sister, Heather)

moved to Chingford. I went to Woodford County High School but did all my further education part-time as a mature student (from A-level to Masters). I have always worked with computers and mainly in the city – I love London. I was a consultant programmer before I had children and lectured in Computer Science (mainly programming) afterwards. Now you know where my organising skill comes from.

I married Ken, who I met at a Bancrofts School dance, 46 years ago at North Chingford Methodist Church and we moved to Loughton. We have had 3 homes here, moving to our current home in Lower Park Road when it was built in 1976 – Ken wanted to be near the station for work (in television at the BBC). Our son Craig lives in America with his wife, daughter and son whilst our daughter Juliet lives in Loughton with her husband and 4 sons. Our eldest twin grandsons are in year 8 at The Davenant and both our own children went there.

I started getting involved at LMC through flower arranging after my mother died in Botswana and since then I have been a church steward, a circuit steward and after

Tony Miles (Tony 1) told me that being Chair of Property & Finance was just a matter of delegation I took on this role about 8 years ago – how naive was I!

For leisure I have been in the Girl Guides since joining Brownies aged 7 and still am with over 40 years as a volunteer. I enjoy researching our family history and old maps, making greetings cards, gardening and flowers, and swimming. Although I am a Loughton Town Councillor I am not political, I just care about Loughton and its people. I am also a governor at Roding Valley High School in my third period of office; I like and care about teenagers.

What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memories are of bombs and sleeping on a cabin trunk in a converted railway carriage in a field near West Wycombe, Bucks where my grandparents were evacuated after their house in Bethnal Green was bombed.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he is always smiling and he never gave up on his country and his people. He just radiates goodness, love of Jesus Christ and his fellow humans.

What is your favourite book?

I don't have a favourite book having read widely. I mostly read fiction and used to like thrillers but now, as I read in bed at night, I prefer something less scary. I recently read 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett and found it thought provoking, funny and sad all at once.

If you were Prime Minister, what would be your key policy issue?

Better support for those who work to counter issues around child suffering of any kind.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?

As one who is musically inept, (playing a CD is my best effort), I would have loved a career in classical music.

What is your best memory of school days?

Learning to swim in the school pool despite the dreadful black woollen costumes we used to wear as it was the only sport where I was better than useless.

What / Where is your favourite place?

The Alps in summer – the scenery is majestic and so quiet, the wild flowers are beautiful and I always feel close to God there. Roll-on July!

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith?

Although I was brought up in the Anglican Church, at the age of 16 I became a Methodist at North Chingford after reading the book ‘Mary Jones and her Bible’. I knew then that I had to read this book that Mary Jones had gone through so much to obtain but which for me was so readily available.

What helps to sustain you in your faith journey?

The fact that I know that Jesus died for my sins and that in his name they are forgiven. God hears my prayers even the really rambling ones and he always has time for me. I went through some ‘wilderness years’ when my father left my mother just after I got married and it was flowers and some very special people at LMC that gradually showed me the way back.

If you were to summarise your faith in a few words, what would you say?

The knowledge that God is with me always, helping me on the road; not just in the big things but in all the little things as well.

What message would you want to give if you were asked to give a sermon?

Love one another as our Father in Heaven loves us.

What hymn or song means the most to you?

Not surprisingly –
O Lord, my God,
when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works
thy hand has made,



Walking Group

This group meets throughout the year and goes on organised walks led by various members of the group. As well as keeping fit this is a wonderful informal way to get to know each other and enjoy each others company. It has even been known for Tony M to come with us. The group usually leaves from the Church at 9.30 am and usually return by about 3.00 pm. The walks are normally of about 5 - 6 miles duration.

Walks over the coming months are planned for:-

Tues 1st Feb, Fri 11th Feb, Tues 22nd Feb, Fri 4th Mar, Tues 15th Mar, Fri 25th March, Tues 5th April, Fri 15th April. A list of the walks showing the leader can be obtained for Barbara Martin, (8508 7476) or Kay Ellis (8508 6018).



David Jackman Born 10 July 1942 is a renowned British Evangelical Christian speaker, and former president of The Proclamation Trust. He

founded the Cornhill Training Course in 1991 and was previously Minister of Above Bar Church, Southampton from 1976 - 1991

Please tell us about a time in your life when God spoke to you most vividly and personally through the Bible. Which passage was it and what did it mean to you at the time?

In 2006 our first grandchild was diagnosed with a malignant tumour on his liver, at the age of 5 months. There followed a period of some anxiety for us all, coupled with the excellent medical care and treatment of Great Ormond Street Hospital for children in London. None of us knew what the outcome would be, but a friend in the ministry passed on to me Philippians 1:19 which came as a shaft of heavenly sunlight. Facing a situation where Paul personally did not know whether he would live or die, there was something he did know – “For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, this will turn out for my

deliverance.” What struck me was that the help of the Spirit was directly linked to the prayers of his fellow Christians. Many people were praying for little Oliver and our whole family was upheld by the Spirit of God in ways that were beyond the natural, knowing that since God works all things together for the good of those who love him (including our ultimate salvation) there is no room left for anything to work for our ill. Today Oliver is 3 1/2 and has thus far made a complete recovery, but we know that his life in God’s hands every day. Indeed that is true of us all and even a single, simple verse like Philippians 1:19 can lead us to have confidence in the Spirit’s enabling grace and power, as God’s people pray.

In recent years what has helped to keep the Bible fresh for you?

What keeps the Bible fresh is studying it in increasing depth and detail. It is such a treasure-house of revelation, with every word inspired and instructive in some way. Boredom with the Bible is the result of surface-reading, trivial playing with a few favourite texts. We need to immerse ourselves in its depths to experience its life-giving power.

What does your regular practice of Bible reading look like?

I read the Bible a book at a time, recording my own questions, observations and lessons learned as I go. Because God put the Bible together book by book, I think we should read it that way. So I want to find out what the theme tunes are which play in the particular book I am currently reading. That way, I get into the heart of the book and I’m able to find out why God inspired it and what it meant to its first readers. If I can find out

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

what it meant to them, then I shall begin to realise what its message must be for me now. But you can't read the Bible like this 5 minutes a day. It would be much better to set aside an hour a week as a spiritual treat, to really get into its meaning and its meaning into me.

What would you say to a Christian who is struggling to read the Bible?

Keep reading; don't give up! Don't try to read too much at one sitting. Don't be afraid to ask all your questions and expect the Bible to provide consistent answers. Try something straightforward like one of the shorter New Testament letters to get you started

again. Remember the Bible is first of all God's book about God, before it is about us. So, ask the Holy Spirit, in prayer, to open your mind to understand more about God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to warm your heart to receive and believe its truth and to energise your will, to put it into practice.

What is your prayer for the Biblefresh initiative?

That the Bible will be restored to its rightful place 'in the driving seat' of our individual lives, in the priorities and plans of our churches and at the heart of our nation. May this initiative be a great step forward by which the Spirit of God takes the Word of God to accomplish the will and work of God.

Whitechapel Mission Night opening in cold weather Appeal for volunteer helpers

Whitechapel Mission is not a regular hostel or night shelter, but we try to open at night in very cold weather to prevent rough sleepers dying from hypothermia on the streets. In recent years we have opened up whenever the temperature has dropped below 0C. Night opening has been supervised by the Director, Tony Miller, working alone, and has depended on his being able to sleep during the day.

This winter the cold weather came early, when we were not expecting it, and was severe and persistent. The numbers seeking shelter rose to over 100, and Tony opened a second room.

These numbers mean we now need to seek volunteers to help us to continue this service. Volunteers would help with the preparation and service of a meal at about 8pm, and then stay awake to keep an eye on the sleepers until the Mission's morning opening at 6am. Any volunteers will be trained. Volunteers would need to keep the nights they had agreed to help free, and be on standby to come to the Mission if called.

We looking for volunteers immediately as, although the weather is now warmer, the winter is far from over. If you think you may be able to help please contact Keith Aldred (01992 560455 or keith@akaldred.plus.com) for further information.

Music@LMC

presents

Davenant Chamber Concert 17th February 2001 at 7:30pm

The concert will consist of performances from students in years 11, 12 and 13 – GCSE and A Level examination candidates.

These performances will prepare them for their examination recitals and will also give you an opportunity to listen to all the hard work these students have put in.

We look forward to an evening of exceptional music. Tickets are £5

and Loughton Youth Music Festival 19th March at 7:30pm.

This is the eighth year of the Loughton Youth Music festival.

6th Form Music Schools from Loughton and its surrounding area will present students playing their A-level Music performance pieces. This is not a competitive evening, but one to enjoy and support our young talent.

This varied evening of first class music is the only event to bring together the very best of our young musicians at this stage in their musical development.

The performers will be from Bancroft's School, Chigwell School, Davenant Foundation School, Epping Forest College, Forest School, Trinity Catholic High School, West Hatch High School, Woodford County High School for Girls



The Guest this year is Erika Footman (iMMA) an international Rock Singer and Song Writer.

Erika is quoted "...Performance is me, through and through... so what I do on stage is a reaction to how I am feeling in that moment..."

The iMMA live experience is a key element to iMMA's story... "...I respect any artist that gets up there and does what they want.

Artists that express themselves in their true nature from start to end..."

**Tickets £8.00 each, (under 16's free) from Church Office
or 8504 8447 or on the door**

Outreach Committee update

Did you know that LMC has an Outreach Committee?

Do you know what the Outreach Committee does?

Do you know any of the Committee members?

Well, the Outreach Committee holds meetings in February, May and October each year. We discuss how we can, in various ways, widen the Church's Outreach by developing key activities and communication around:

- Telling the good news of Jesus
- Caring for individual people and communities
- Sharing the task of education, social and spiritual development
- Struggling for a just world
- Being alongside the poor
- Becoming friends with people of different cultures and faiths
- Caring for the earth
- Building partnerships with other churches and groups who share some of our mission aims

Committee members represent various groups that LMC support e.g. Action for Children; Christian Aid; Whitechapel Mission; JMA; Fair Trade; Network; Alzheimer's; World

Mission and the Bible Society.

We have a small annual budget approved by Church Council to allocate to various charities. Some charities receive money annually and a small amount is allocated each year on a discretionary basis. Last year's discretionary budget was given to Haiti for the rebuilding of churches and schools.

In subsequent issues of Grapevine we will tell you about our progress and key initiatives. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions of other worthy causes or how we can extend LMC's Outreach, please speak to any of the Committee members listed below.

- ★ Steve Perry (Chairman)
- ★ Rev. Tony Morling (Minister),
- ★ Angela Aldred (Social Responsibility)
- ★ Keith Aldred (Christian Aid and Whitechapel Mission)
- ★ Christine Baker (Communication),
- ★ Deborah Davies (JMA)
- ★ Barbara Martin (Home Mission)
- ★ Peter Moles (Stewards' Representative),
- ★ Irene Sampson (Alzheimer's and Care for the Elderly)
- ★ Gill Webster (World Mission and Bible Society)
- ★ Gemma Wicks (Action for Children)
- ★ Kim Schofield (Secretary).

Biblefresh

At a recent Stewards Meeting we were considering ways of celebrating the 400th Anniversary of The King James Bible and came up with the idea of creating a bound volume of hand written Bible passages that have special meaning for members of LMC. To enable you to respond to this idea, there will be slips available from the book trolley for you to register your name and give the Bible reference that you would wish to write. In due course, we will hand out the special paper sheets for your contribution. If you have any questions, please ask one of the Stewards.

Christine Whatson



And I'm Licensed To Chill!

Beat the credit crunch blues with author Liz Babbs' new one-woman show "Licensed to Chill".

Relax and enjoy an eclectic mix of performance, poetry, prose and meditation – gently stirred with a dash of humour!

Thursday 17th March

7.30pm @ Café Rouge, High Road, Loughton

£15 to include food and tea/coffee. Bar available.

**TICKETS and more information contact
JANE GOODING 0208 502 3732**

LMC/CDRC Building Project Easy fundraising

Yes, there really is a way for easy fund raising and this is how it is done.

If you use the internet for shopping (if you do not please pass this to someone you know who does) you can raise funds simply by buying your goods in the normal way if you do it through the easyfundraising.co.uk site.

Because of the fact that buying via the internet cuts out considerable costs, the large retailers make more profit and they give up a percentage of this for charities. I have registered the 'LMC Arts/Drama Centre project' with them and all we have to do is shop as normal and you can even search for the product and visit the price comparison sites if you use 'easysearch' first. You can buy from those you normally buy from and anything from a book to a washing machine etc. All instructions are provided on the site. The percentage donated varies according to the retailer and the goods bought.

The steps to register are –

- Type easyfundraising.org.uk (or easysearch) into your internet browser
- Choose 'LMC Arts/Drama Centre project' to support with funds
- Register as a user (only needed once and they send you an email to confirm).
- Go to the site where you want to purchase goods e.g. Amazon, John Lewis, M&S etc. I tend to use the A-Z of retailers as the way to where I want to shop.
- Buy your goods as usual.

It's so simple that I am already buying things this way. Please help us to raise funds by using this simple technique. It does not produce huge funds but everything raised this way means that we do not have to raise it another way, more demanding, way. Cheques are sent to us quarterly.

Please give it a try

Thanks,

Jill Angold-Stephens,

Chairman, Project Team

Tony's 7 Easy Steps to Learn the 27 books of the New Testament.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John went to bed with their trousers on. Together they tell of God's **ARC** of promises. And the **Guernsey Evening Post Collected** advertises trips to see Paul's churches. After which you need a cup of **T**. But all that does not give you a PhD (or even a **PHJ**). Because it is all about being a disciple like Peter, John and Jude. And bringing about the Revelation of God's love

1) Matthew, Mark, Luke and John... went to bed with their trousers on.

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

2) Together they tell of God's **ARC** of promises.

Acts

Romans

Corinthians I

Corinthians II

3) And the **Guernsey Evening Post Collected** advertises trips to see Paul's churches.

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

4) After which you need a cup of **T** (all the NT books starting with **T** are together).

Thessalonians I

Thessalonians II

Timothy I

Timothy II

Titus

5) But all that does not give you a PhD (or even a **PHJ**).

Philemon

Hebrews

James

6) Because it is all about being a disciple like:

Peter I

Peter II

John I

John II

John III

Jude

(note all the books starting with **J** are together)

7) And bringing about the **Revelation** of God's love.

Revelation

Well it works for him! Do you know of any other bible memory aids? Why not share them in the next month's Grapevine.

A Special Holiday - October 2010

Mary Howarth writes..... In October 2010, Martin and I had a special holiday in October to celebrate my retirement. We went to the Caribbean and spent 5 days on Antigua and 8 on Barbados. Antigua was laid-back, friendly and very welcoming, green and undeveloped, pleasantly warm at an almost constant 28° C. Moving on to Barbados was quite a contrast. The first thing to strike us was that it was hot (35°C) and the second that the sun was shining! Barbados is much more built up in the west and south but, we got used to it. We found later in the holiday that the interior, north and west sides of the island are far less developed. We quickly learnt that Barbados, for all that Barbadians will tell you they no longer play cricket much, has more cricket fields per area than the UK! The administrative system is by Parish (which seemed quaint at first but seems to work well) and main Parish churches are much respected and visited.

On Antigua we had been too tired and jet-lagged to do anything about Sunday worship, but we were acclimatised by the time we got to Barbados so there was no excuse. Hometown is just over half way up the west coast of Barbados. It is named after its main river outlet which was said to be reminiscent of the London 'hole' and was the landing site of the first British explorers in 1628. It has a 2-3 mile sea-front and goes inland about 1 mile. On our first day there we were struck by the Methodist church, standing at the junction of the coast road and the road down from the interior. It was stone-built and quite obviously Victorian and looked very British and familiar. (We were to learn later that the original wooden chapel on the site had been built in the 1780s)

On the Saturday, as we wandered around town, we passed it by and as the doors were open, being nosey, we went in. It had pews each side of a central aisle, an electronic organ, plaques on the walls, a front communion rail with sideways choir stalls and a raised pulpit, very like many Methodist churches of my youth. The notice board outside informed us that worship was at 9 00 am and visitors were very welcome so we decided we'd give it a go.



I was a bit concerned about not having appropriate clothing for a Caribbean church service and was relieved to see as we arrived that, though people were smartly dressed, the wearing of hats was largely preserved by the older generation as was the wearing of ties and suit jackets. We just about passed muster in our holiday gear. We were greeted at the door by a group of about 4 women who gave us a printed order of service, a notice sheet and the old maroon Methodist hymn book with 'FOR THE USE OF VISITORS' stamped on the front. Having been brought up on that one, I hoped that I might at least know the hymns! We were not told where to sit, so we found a pew near the back next to an open window and sat down. We'd arrived about 10 minutes before the service was due to start and were quite surprised to see that the church was less than half full. During the

next 10 minutes, more arrived including an important party who were quite reverently shown to seats at the front of the church. Eventually, with the church about two thirds full, the service began with a voluntary from the organ which was well played by a very large white-haired man. Then the choir arrived fully robed and sang an introit. Finally the steward, a woman, stood up and welcomed us all to worship making special mention of the board of a primary school (I presume it was local) that was visiting that morning. She then welcomed the preacher for the morning who was a local preacher (gowned) of some renown who had not been to Hometown for over a year and his presence in the pulpit was greeted with warm applause.

The first part of the service was the usual hymn-prayer-hymn-readings-hymn-gospel sandwich. The hymns were mostly ones I dimly remembered from my youth, though there was a Charles Wesley hymn that Martin asked me if I knew and I had to confess to never having seen it before - as over half of the rest of the congregation had obviously not sung it before either (the volume of singing sank to a much lower level than in other hymns) the preacher even apologised for choosing a rather obscure hymn. The words to all hymns and readings were projected onto the front wall of the church like we do, but in white lettering on a black background which showed up well in spite of the very bright sunshine streaming in at the windows. The church was kept at a reasonable temperature by having the windows angled to collect the breeze and about 10 fans whirring all round the walls. During this part of the service, people were arriving all the time so that eventually it was full and there was a group of about 12 children sitting in front of the organ.

Then came the announcements. The steward was happy to welcome us all again. She drew attention to the class groups that would be meeting through the week (most were meeting at the church and were therefore not house-groups!) She then announced a special Methodist event to be taking place at the beginning of November, this was to cover Methodists from the whole Island whether Primitive, Reform, Wesleyan or any other kind! She then welcomed all visitors and asked that we would stand and introduce ourselves, offering any messages we might be bringing. First she asked those at the front to stand and the school board did so with the chairman introducing them as part of that church's community; then it was the turn of those on the right and a couple from Carolina said they were visiting Barbados and finally those on the left were Martin and I. Martin did a good job of introducing us, saying we were on holiday and thanking them for the beauty and hospitality of their island. Each visitor was welcomed with applause. Then the steward asked if anyone had anything to share with the congregation. One woman (I suspect another steward) gave thanks that in the previous week's flood (of which we had already seen evidence) the church had stood high and dry above the water; then another began to give thanks for the return to health of her elderly mother and at that moment a very elderly, bent and frail-looking woman walked slowly into the church and room was quickly made for her to sit down as soon as possible. It emerged that a year previously this woman had been subject to a vicious attack in her own home and had been in hospital for a long time as a result. The congregation warmly applauded her return to health and presence with them. This part of the service was concluded with the offertory,

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

a hymn and the offertory prayer and the children left for their classes.

The sermon then began, which was on the subject of gratitude for our blessings and was based on the story of the ten healed lepers, only one of whom returned to Jesus with thanks, and it lasted for about 45 minutes! It was very well structured, well thought through and delivered with humour and variations in pace so it was not boring but one did wonder how it would have gone down at LMC. The choir rounded off the thoughtful part of the session. They sang hymns that might have been found in our green hymn book and did it well. I was surprised that there was not a rich singing in harmony like we experienced in Africa, in this church.

There was harmony in the items the choir sang by themselves, but in general the congregation and choir sang in unison.

The service finished with prayers of intercession and a final processional hymn during which the choir and preacher followed by the school board processed the length of the church and out of the front door. The concluding prayer was said by all and the blessing given by the preacher; then, as the order of service said, it was 'The end of worship and the beginning of service'. As we left, a woman in the pew in front of us turned and thanked us warmly for coming, wishing us a good time for the rest of our stay. We felt we had really been part of something special - even if it had taken over an hour and a half!

Romance on Broadway

Saturday February 12th

7.30pm

**St John the Baptist Church
Church Lane Loughton**

An evening of music and song

Olivia Barry and Ben Gillham

who regularly appear on the concert platform -

also a Guest appearance by Stefan Zuna

**Tickets £10 each from the
reception at Oakview School**

020 8508 4293 or the Parish Office 020 8532 0060

(price includes a glass of wine/juice)

**All funds raised will go towards the Hydrotherapy pool
at Oakview School**

In December Tom Donoghue found this reflection in a magazine which he shares with us at the start of 2011 as something to think on after the busy Christmas period and we settle into the New Year.

Are You Too B-U-S-Y?

'...that satan might not outwit us...' 2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV

Addressing a worldwide convention of demons, satan told them: 'As long as Christians stay close to God we've no power over them, so:

1. Keep them busy with non-essentials.
2. Tempt them to overspend and go into debt.
3. Make them work long hours to maintain empty lifestyles.
4. Discourage them from spending family time, for when homes disintegrate there's no refuge from work.
5. Over stimulate their minds with television and computers so that they can't hear God speaking to them.
6. Fill their coffee tables and nightstands with newspapers and magazines so they've no time for bible reading.
7. Flood their letter boxes with sweepstakes, promotions and get rich-quick schemes; keep them chasing material things.
8. Put glamorous models on TV and on magazine covers to keep them focussed on outward appearances; that way they'll be dissatisfied with themselves and their mates.
9. Make sure couples are too exhausted for physical intimacy; that way they'll be tempted to look elsewhere.
10. Emphasise Santa and the Easter Bunny; that way you'll divert them from the real meaning of the holidays.
11. Involve them in 'good' causes so they won't have time for 'eternal' ones.
12. Make them self sufficient. Keep them so busy working in their own strength that they'll never know the joy of God's power working through them.

Do these twelve things faithfully. I promise - it'll work!

Have you figured out the difference between being busy and being successful in what God's called you to do? Sometimes being B-U-S-Y just means: ***Being Under Satan's Yoke!***

Today's Youth ~ What we've been up to...

Thirty young people and five leaders had a great time together on our 2010 Christmas Trip to the South Bank which was a busy afternoon and evening. We went ice skating



which was lots of fun especially with the orange seals that were on the ice! We had a trip on the London Eye. This was followed by the London Eye 4D experience and then we warmed up with a McDonalds before heading back. It was a great opportunity for the fellowship of TY's as well as for the young people to invite friends and we were joined by the young people from Trinity church too.

We enjoyed being in the 2010 Nativity. The

theme "Christmas through the Ages" gave us some thought provoking rehearsals as we prepared our section on the Christmas truce in 1914 World War One trenches. It was well worth all the effort from many of the young people with painting trenches and masks, as well as learning scripts and performing. It was great to be part of something bigger with all the other departments and seeing the whole nativity being pulled together through the verse Hebrews 13 v8: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.'

Our year began with our New Year forest walk during the covenant service; it was a great way to start the year together. Fuelled with bacon butties from Gladley's we had a good walk and reflection on the covenant prayer and the promise that we make to God.

Our up and coming stuff includes TY sessions that will mostly be using the Bible in One Year as inspiration, there will be lots of involvement in services from the Worship Band, and we will be contributing to the Roots Service on Sunday 27th March 2011. Also we will be thinking of a new department name that fits into the new **Roots: Children and Youth Ministry at Loughton Methodist Church** banner.

Tom Donoghue

Chloe reflects on the Doug Horley 'Praise Party'

Having been asked to write a summary about the Doug Horley Praise Party, I find myself struggling to find the words to share with you. Mainly because it was so awesome, I feel like my words will not be able to speak of how much that one day has impacted not only my work and the other leaders of Children and Youth work in the church, but the lives of over 100 children who attended.

Doug and his fantastic team came and delivered a training session for those involved in Children and Youth Ministry, both in our church and in the community. There were around 40 people who attended the training. He delivered a professional, clear and passionate message, which inspired so many people. It gave us the confidence and deeper understanding of the importance of the work with young people.

One person commented 'You couldn't help but be inspired!'

In the evening we had around 100 children and 60 adults come to the church for the Praise Party. This was a brilliant evening full of worship, a break dancer, puppets, games and a very clear Biblical message. The kids (and big kids) all really enjoyed it; it was great fun but also very moving. To see the children and adults connecting with the Holy Spirit was a powerful sight. At one point he asked everyone to kneel down while he prayed; it was possibly one of the most moving moments I have had in my Children and Youth Ministry.

The evening was a great success, and it couldn't have been done without the help of so many people. So a big thank you to those who helped in any way!

I remember when I thanked one of the wonderful people who stayed to help clear up, they said 'Oh I just cleared up.' Although they thought it was 'just', it meant everything to me. Without people 'just' being there, and 'just' doing their bit it would have been incredibly difficult.

Before I started working for a church, I was a teaching assistant in Bournemouth for children with special needs. Whenever anyone asked me what I did I would always tell them that I was 'just a teaching assistant!' I remember that it used to drive one of the teachers in the school crazy! She would always say that there has never been a teaching assistant that was 'just'. I know I'm not the only person who easily tags 'just' on

to the front of their role or position, and it isn't done because we want to be affirmed or have a low self esteem. I think it is because we often can easily see the value in other people, and in the roles and jobs that they do, but not in ourselves.

It has been something that has been put on my heart recently again. When I was at Cliff College the following week, we looked at valuing ourselves in the positions that God has put us in. They asked us if we see our jobs as a 'professional' role. This really challenged me. Did I still think of my job as 'just'?

During that week, God really spoke to me, and I believe it is a message that he wants you to hear too. He created us. Loves us. Knows us. Has a plan for us.

So no job or role that we have will ever be 'just' anything! It is exactly where God has placed us. A verse that I kept being reminded of was one from Isaiah 43:1 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, and you are mine'

What is God calling you by name for?

Thankfully God doesn't give up on us, even when we think we are 'just us'. He created us. Loves us. Knows us. He uses us, just as we are!

Just be yourself!

Chloe

Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi Everyone!

This year our church family are being challenged to take a fresh look at the Bible, God's special book that speaks to everyone about God's love for us and how we should respond to Him.

There are lots of stories in the Bible that teach us things and one of them is a lovely picture of how God is always willing to give us another chance. It is the story of Jeremiah and the potter.

Jeremiah was a prophet, a person who gave God's messages to people. One day he watched a potter using a simple wheel to make cooking pots. One of the pots wasn't quite right, but the potter didn't throw it away and start another one. He just squashed it down and started again, this time turning it in to a perfect pot. The clay had a second chance to be beautiful and useful.

Jeremiah realised that God was showing him that all of us are in God's hands. God, like the potter, gives us a second chance to be what we should be.

Prayertime

Dear Father God,

Thank you for loving us so much that you never give up on us.

Thank you that though we do wrong things you forgive us and help us to start again.

Thank you for the Bible and all that it teaches us.

Help us to take time to read and understand the stories in your special book and to talk to you in prayer,

For Jesus sake,

Amen

Children's activities

Toddler Church

A time of worship for pre-school children and their parents/carers.

Meets Tuesdays in term time in the church at 10.00 am.

Contact - Cathy Morling, 8508.1834

Girls' Brigade

(Christian Uniformed Organisation)

For girls 5-14 years old

6.00 to 7.30 pm

Thursdays in term time.

Lots of fun, activities, badges work and awards

Contact:- Andrea Moles 8508 0258

Puzzletime

See if you can use the Old Testament section of your Bible to find the answers to the following clues. You are given the first letter of each name and the reference to help you!

A.....Father of Isaac (Genesis 21:3)

B.....Joseph's brother (Genesis 35:24)

C.....Murdered his brother (Genesis 4:8)

D..... Son of Jesse (Ruth 4:22)

E.....Cured Leprosy (2 Kings 5:20)

G.....Fought Midian (Judges 7:14)

H..... Mother of Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20)

LMC Tree at Trinity Christmas Tree Festival



Once again LMC sponsored a Tree at Trinity's Christmas Tree Festival. This Year the Girls Brigade did the decorations, the True Meaning of Christmas. They all did beautiful decorations and as you can see it looked great. On the Saturday evening Trinity held a Musical Evening, in the church among all the beautiful trees. It was a lovely evening with music played on a harp and spinet by Christina and Stephen Denny, readings by Cathy Morling about the Big Bad Wolf, the Three Little Pigs and Red Riding Hood and the LMC Singers with songs from the shows and Christmas music. There was a wonderful



interval Buffet produced by the ladies of Trinity. It was a great evening, well supported by LMC, and it started Christmas off on a high note among the glittering Christmas Trees.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

invites you to

THE HUGH PRICE HUGHES LECTURES 2011

“Whose translation”

**Interpreting Scripture from different
contemporary perspectives**

FEBRUARY 8th 2011 7.30pm

Christopher Rowland

*“A Parable for Today: interpreting the Bible from
the perspective of the theology of liberation”*

MARCH 8th 2011 7.30pm

James Dunn

*“How should the New Testament Function
as Canon in Today’s Church?”*

APRIL 12th 2011 7.30pm

Cheryl Exum

“The Vision of Love in the Song of Songs”

MAY 10th 2011 7.30pm

Archie Lee

*“The Bible’s Journey to the East:
Contextual Biblical Interpretation in China”*

JUNE 14th 2011 7.30pm

Mukti Barton

“Let me read the Bible with my own eyes, not with yours”

Admission Free

at Hindé Street Methodist Church
Hindé Street, London W1U 2QJ
Tel: 020 7935 6170
www.hindestreet.org.uk

250 YEARS
OF METHODISM
IN THE WEST END
HINDE ST

**Further details of the lectures can be found on the
notice board in Wesley’s Café**

Fellowship Groups

Monday@11

Mondays 11.00am - 12.30
Fellowship Group meeting
at the Church
Leader - Rev Tony Morling
Tel: 8508 1834

Emmaus

Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 pm
A fellowship group that
enjoys sharing and
bouncing ideas off each
other
Venue - various homes
Leader - Peter Moles &
Irene Sampson

JAM - Just a minute

Monday mornings
For busy mums, meets for
discussion, prayer and fellowship
around the kitchen table. on
Thursday mornings in different
homes.
(children welcome.)
Tel- Diana Page on 020 8508 2617.

Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 8 - 9.30 pm
A group that enjoys worship
and prayer together
Venue - 16 Harwater Drive,
Loughton
Leader - Chris & Fiona
Beament
Tel: 8508 9983

Cover to Cover

Wednesday 1.30 - 3 pm
A group that enjoys
fellowship and discussion.
Venue:
93 Queens Road.
Loughton,
Contact:- Pat Perry,
Tel: 8508 9014.

Seekers Group

Wednesday 8 - 10 pm
A group that enjoys
fellowship, support and
learning together, meets on
1st & 3rd Weds in month.
Venue - various homes
Leaders - Chris Watts &
Barbara Hills
Tel: 8504 6064

The Girls of all ages

Meets on Thursday mornings.
You are invited to join us for
fellowship, prayer and
discussion.
We meet in Wesley's at 10.30
am for coffee and move into
the church until 12 noon.
Do come and join us.
Leader - Barbara Griffiths
Tel: 020 8508 4624

Oasis

Thursday 8 - 9.30 pm
A group that enjoys
singing, fellowship, and
study
Venue - various locations
around Loughton
Leaders - Mary Ford &
Derek Clarke
Tel: 8504 6700 & 8508

Omega

Meets monthly in the
afternoon by arrangement
A group which meets for critical
discussion on Christianity in our
technological and pluralistic society.
Contact: Patricia Smith 8505 5291
or Keith Aldred 01992 560455

Other Church Group details

Butterfly Club

A weekly gathering on Mondays for carers
and pre-school children, meeting in the
Wesley Hall in term time, 1.30 to 3.00 pm.
Contact - Victoria Williamson 8502 2339

Double YY's, (Yesterdays Youth)

meet monthly for fun, & fellowship. It is
open to anyone who was young whenever
but is still young at heart. Meetings can be
talks, bowling, walks, visits to places of
interest, eating or anything that the
members wish to do.
Please check The Week for details each
month and come along.

LMC Singers

Meet to practise 8.00 pm on Friday evenings
at the church.
New singers, of all standards, are always
welcome to join.
For more information please contact Michael
Hall on 020 8502 3690.

'Come and raise a joyful sound'

Loughton Methodist Church



From India with Love

A **fun** evening with a mixture of good food, music, entertainment and a more serious side looking at **the plight of the Dalits**.
Do bring your favourite Indian dish to share! Any offers of help gratefully accepted!

Saturday 12th February at 8pm
at Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church
(access round the back of the church,
along the service road)

Everyone welcome!

dress code: Indian attire / smart casual

पाइ for दालिइ

for tickets contact:

Vida on 07904 377 355 vidawarby@hotmail.com
or Liz on 07940 333 511 lizandadam@gmx.net
or contact the church office on 020 8502 3071

BYO drinks - no alcohol

ticket cost:

£5